

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OIC-02 AID-05 COME-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECWA,AORG

SUBJECT: ECWA THIRD PLENARY DOHA, QATAR, MAY 5-10.

1. DEPT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY UN SECRETARIAT THAT ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ECWA) INTENDS TO PROCEED WITH PROPOSED PLENARY SESSION. ALTHOUGH NOT MEMBER OF ECWA, US APPLIED FOR AND WAS GRANTED "CONSULTATIVE STATUS" (SIMILAR TO OBSERVER) BY THE COMMISSION ON OCCASION OF THE FIRST AND SECOND PLENARY SESSIONS IN 1974 AND 75.

2. EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL POINT OF CONTACT WITH ECWA HEADQUARTERS. IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, DEPT REALIZES WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SECRETARIAT NOT POSSIBLE. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE, HOWEVER, IF EMBASSY COULD TRY TO CONTACT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AL-ABTAR BY PHONE AND ADVISE HIM OF US INTEREST IN OBTAINING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"CONSULTATIVE STATUS" FOR 3RD PLENARY SESSION IN DOHA. IF

SUCCESSFUL AND AL-ATTAR RESPONDS POSITIVELY, AS ANTICIPATED, EMBASSY SHOULD ADVISE HIM THAT DEPT IS ADDRESSING LETTER OF APPLICATION TO HIM THROUGH UN HEADQUARTERS N.Y. AND ASK WHETHER HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ADVISE UN HEADQUARTERS (RICHARD PAW-U) OF ECWA APPROVAL OF US REQUEST. WE HAVE CHOSEN THIS ROUND ABOUT APPROACH ON PREMISE THAT POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH ECWA HEADQUARTERS IS SUSPENDED AT PRESENT TIME. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE AL-ATTAR'S GUIDANCE ON HOW AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR 3RD PLENARY CAN BE OBTAINED.

3. FOR EMBASSY DOHA: DEPT APPRECIATES THAT EMBASSY'S PERSONNEL RESOURCES ARE LIMITED BUT WILL APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER EMBASSY OFFICER COULD COVER ALL OR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF PLENARY MEETINGS, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT "CONSULTATIVE STATUS" FOR US IS OBTAINED FROM ECWA PER PARA 2. SISCO

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